

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to recognize Joe Max Williams on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Joe Max Williams, who has served expertly as Executive Director of the South Central Tennessee Development District for twenty-eight years, began his much deserved retirement from his important post on December 31, 2006; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious career with the South Central Tennessee Development District (SCTDD), Mr. Williams provided his employer with singular professional expertise tempered with humanity; and

WHEREAS, Joe Max Williams was born in Fayetteville, Tennessee, in 1942 and graduated from Fayetteville Central High School in 1961; and

WHEREAS, after attending Peabody College in Nashville for a year, Mr. Williams returned home to Fayetteville, where he worked at a service station before finding civilian employment at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Joe Max Williams enlisted in the United States Air Force on March 13, 1964, and he served his country in the Vietnam War; stationed in Thailand, he worked on aircraft instrument and navigation systems; and

WHEREAS, offered a position with Continental Airlines upon completion of his military duties in 1967, Mr. Williams opted instead to return to college through the Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act, better known as the GI Bill; and

WHEREAS, Joe Max Williams enrolled in Middle Tennessee State University in 1968, where he met his future wife, Francis Elaine Lockhart; Mr. Williams received a Bachelor of

Science degree in Political Science in 1970, and he began working for the State of Tennessee as a consultant with the Office of the Comptroller in that same year; and

WHEREAS, in June of 1972, Mr. Williams accepted a position with the South Central Tennessee Development District, where he was responsible for the organization's first overall economic development plan; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 1973, Joe Max Williams became affiliated with the University of Tennessee County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS), serving as a technical assistant and research analyst for CTAS in Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Joe Max Williams began work on his Master's Degree while at CTAS, attending classes at night and on weekends at Tennessee State University, then University of Tennessee at Nashville; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Mr. Williams was hired by the Board of Directors of the South Central Tennessee Development District as Executive Director, and shortly thereafter, he received his Master's Degree in Public Administration; and

WHEREAS, now in its thirty-fourth year, SCTDD is an association working with thirteen county and thirty-six municipal governments in Southern Middle Tennessee to promote and advocate community and economic development within the region, and Joe Max Williams significantly furthered this important work during his exemplary tenure as Director; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams has served on many committees in conjunction with the office he held, including the Economic Development Committee and the Revolving Loan Committee, among others too numerous to mention; he has also served as a valuable member of the Private Industry Council, the Board of Directors of the National Association of Development Directors (NADO), and the Maury Alliance; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Joe Max Williams is a three-time winner of the NADO Innovation Award and has also been honored with the Rural Development Partnership Award, the Marshall S. Stuart Award of Excellence, and the prestigious Workforce Board Partnership Award; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, this outstanding gentleman is indeed fortunate to share love and companionship with his wife of over thirty-seven years, Francis Elaine Lockhart, their children, Anderson, Stacey, and Elizabeth, and grandson, Grady; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Williams has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, as Joe Max Williams officially answers the tantalizing call of retirement, it is most appropriate that we pause to honor his exemplary professional career and his even more impressive résumé as a human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Joe Max Williams our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.